Increase in the prices of levy sugar

464. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of levy sugar have lately been increased and the quota of free sale sugar increased by 50 per cent; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor, indicating the extent of price increase attributable to various elements and the factors leading to enhancement of free sale quota?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) Consequent upon increase in the statutory minimum price of sugarcane for 1987-88 season from Rs. 17.00 to Rs. 18.50 per quintal linked to 8.5 per cent recovery and higher manufacturing cost of sugar determined for the production of 1987-88, the retail issue price of levy sugar has been increased from Rs. 4.85 to Rs. 5.10 per kilogram with effect from 1-1-1988. The ratio of levy to free sale quota for the sugar year 1987-88 has, however, been kept unchanged at 50 : 50.

T.V. Station at Pondicherry

465. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pondicherry State Television Viewers' Association has recently urged Government to ensure clear reception of the Madras Doordarshan programmes in Pondicherry; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to start a separate Television Centre in Pondicherry, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) Yes, Sir. A representation was received from the Association for linking Doordarshan Kendra, Madras through a microwave circuit with the transmitter functioning at Pondicherry so as to enable the latter to transmit the programmes produced in Doordarshan Kendra, Madras and also to set up a separate programme production facility at Pondicherry.

(b) The VII Plan of Doordarshan provides, *inter alia*, for setting up Programme Generation Facility at Pondicherry. The completion of this project is dependent on annual allocation of resources.

Boosting of tourism in Ladakh

466. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have chalked out a plan with the assistance of J & K Tourism to boost tourism in Ladakh by introducing the white water sports in this area;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that in order to promote tourism in Leh, the Srinagar-Leh road has to be improved; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the condition of this road for the tourism industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Ministry at present; neither a proposal for the same has been received from the State Government.